Some other activities under National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme for prevention, control and treatment of Dengue as follows:

1. For strengthening monitoring and surveillance, Sentinel Surveillance Centres have been set up in 137 hospitals spread over 20 States and Union Territories. Apart from these Sentinel Surveillance Centres, 13 labs have been identified as Apex Referral Labs spread out in existing hospitals in different parts of the country for the confirmation of Dengue.

2. For Dengue testing, dengue testing kits (IgM MAC Elisa kits made by National Institute of Virology, Pune) are being supplied to the Sentinel Surveillance Hospitals and Apex Referral Labs. These Centres are also being funded to some extent by Government of India. In 2009, 887 dengue test kits (1 kit = 96 tests) have been supplied to identified institutes.

3. Capacity building through training is being done.

4. Awareness generation messages for prevention and control of Dengue through electronic and print media.

5. Advisories are issued to the States/UTs regularly.

6. Regular reviews are done by the Government of India.

Women Chaiperson in Panchayats

551. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not less than one third of the total number of posts of Chairpersons in Panchayats at each level are reserved for women;

(b) if so, whether the provision of reservation for women is being implemented aptly in the country, particularly in Himachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, the number of women sarpanches in Himachal Pradesh; and

(d) whether Government has ever taken any steps to ensure full implementation of this provision in every State?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) Yes, Madam. As per the provisions of 243D of the Constitution, not less than one-third of the total number of offices of Chairpersons in Panchayats in each level are reserved for women.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. This Constitutional provision is mandatory for all States cover in Part IX. As per information provided from the State Government, the number of women Sarpanches in the State of Himachal Pradesh is 1147.

(d) As per information available, State Panchayati Raj Acts of all States to whom Part IX of the Constitution applies (except Jharkhand where elections have not been held) provide for reservation of at least one-third of the offices of the Chairpersons in Panchayat at each level for women.